

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system which enables a plurality of terminals to receive a service program and carry out communications between terminals to execute the service program in order to receive a prescribed service, comprising:
 - 5 an agent system provided in each of the terminals; and
 - a server terminal formed by one of the plurality of terminals;
 wherein the server terminal distributes copies of the service program held in its possession to other prescribed terminals via the agent system.
- 10 2. The communication system of Claim 1, wherein the prescribed terminals that received the service program from the server terminal are provided with a function to delete the service program after the prescribed service is terminated.
- 15 3. A server terminal, comprising:
 - a terminal equipped with an agent system, a communication function for communicating with other terminals, a program acquisition function for acquiring a service program, and a distribution function for distributing the acquired service program to the other prescribed terminals;
 whereby a prescribed service is supplied to the server terminal and the other prescribed terminals when the service program is executed by the server terminal and the other prescribed terminals.
- 20 4. A server, comprising:
 - an agent system capable of supplying a service program to a prescribed terminal; and
 an information transmission function which transmits information related to the supplied service program to the prescribed terminal at the time the service program is supplied thereto;
 wherein the transmitted information makes it possible for the prescribed terminal to distribute the supplied service program to other prescribed terminals.
- 25 5. The server of Claim 4, wherein the transmitted information that enables distribution includes information related to the number of terminals approved to receive the service program.

6. A server, comprising:

- an agent system capable of supplying a service program to a prescribed terminal;
- wherein the service program includes a server function program which makes it possible for the prescribed terminal receiving the service program to function as a server.

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7. A billing system for carrying out a billing of a service program supplied from a server to a server terminal and then distributed to other terminals, comprising:

10 a billing function provided in the server terminal to carry out a billing of all distributed service programs based on information related to the number of terminals approved to receive the service program sent from the server to the server terminal.

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8. A billing system for carrying out a billing of a service program supplied from a server to a server terminal and then distributed to other terminals, comprising:

- a billing server; and
- a reception notification function provided in each of the terminals to notify the billing server that the service program was received by the terminal.

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9. A communication method which enables a plurality of terminals equipped with an agent system to receive a service program and carry out communications between terminals to execute the service program in order to receive a prescribed service, comprising the steps of:

- establishing one of the terminals as a server terminal;
- making the server terminal distribute the service program in its possession to other prescribed terminals via the agent systems thereof; and
- making the prescribed terminals that received the service program from the server terminal delete the service program after the prescribed service is terminated.

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30 10. A billing method for carrying out a billing of a service program supplied from a server to a server terminal and then distributed to other terminals, comprising the steps of:

- transmitting information related to the number of terminals approved to receive the service program to the server terminal from the server; and

carrying out a billing of all distributed service programs based on the information received by the server terminal from the server.